

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An airbag cover having a tear seam, said tear seam comprising:
a transverse segment having a width ~~adapted to extend~~ extending beyond the ~~a~~ perimeter of an underlying airbag door; and
a first end segment and a second end segment opposing one another, the transverse segment extending between and intersecting each of the first end segment and the second end segment at locations distal from the perimeter of the underlying airbag door.
2. (Original) The airbag cover of claim 1 wherein:
the first end segment and second end segment, each including at least one convex segment proximal the intersection of the first end segment with the transverse segment; and
each convex segment adapted to be substantially perpendicular to a deployment induced stress pattern in the airbag covering.
3. (Original) The airbag cover of claim 2 wherein:
the at least one convex segment is substantially symmetric about the intersection with the transverse segment.
4. (Original) The airbag cover of claim 3 wherein:
the at least one convex segment is a single convex segment adapted to have its outermost point corresponding to the intersection with the transverse segment.
5. (Original) The airbag cover of claim 4 wherein:
the at least one convex segment comprises a single convex segment in the form of an arc defined by a substantially uniform arc radius.

6. (Original) The airbag cover of claim 4 wherein:

the at least one convex segment comprises a single convex segment defined by a substantially parabolic shape.

7. (Original) The airbag cover of claim 4 wherein:

the at least one convex segment of the first end segment comprises an upper convex segment and a lower convex segment meeting to form a valley at the intersection of the first end segment with the transverse segment; and

the at least one convex segment of the second end segment comprises an upper convex segment and a lower convex segment meeting to form a valley at the intersection of the second end segment with the transverse segment.

8. (Currently Amended) The airbag cover of claim 1 wherein:

the transverse segment being ~~of the type~~ formed from a continuous uniform laser score.

9. (Currently Amended) The airbag cover of claim 1 wherein:

the first end segment and second end segment being ~~of the type~~ formed from a continuous uniform laser score.

10. (Currently Amended) The airbag cover of claim 1 wherein:

the transverse segment being ~~of the type~~ formed from a series of multiple laser score segments.

11. (Currently Amended) The airbag cover of claim 1 wherein:

the first end segment and second end segment being ~~of the type~~ formed from a series of multiple laser score segments.

12. (New) An airbag cover having a tear seam, said tear seam comprising:

a transverse segment having a width extending beyond a perimeter of an underlying airbag door; and

a first end segment and a second end segment opposing one another, the transverse segment extending between and intersecting each of the first end segment and the second end segment at locations distal from the perimeter of the underlying airbag door,

wherein the first end segment and second end segment, each including at least one convex segment proximal the intersection of the first end segment with the transverse segment, each convex segment adapted to be substantially perpendicular to a deployment induced stress pattern in the airbag covering, the at least one convex segment of the first end segment comprises an upper convex segment and a lower convex segment meeting to form a valley at the intersection of the first end segment with the transverse segment, and the at least one convex segment of the second end segment comprises an upper convex segment and a lower convex segment meeting to form a valley at the intersection of the second end segment with the transverse segment.

13. (New) The airbag cover of claim 12 wherein:

the at least one convex segment is substantially symmetric about the intersection with the transverse segment.

14. (New) The airbag cover of claim 12 wherein:

the transverse segment being formed from a continuous uniform laser score.

15. (New) The airbag cover of claim 12 wherein:

the first end segment and second end segment being formed from a continuous uniform laser score.

16. (New) The airbag cover of claim 12 wherein:

the transverse segment being formed from a series of multiple laser score segments.

17. (New) The airbag cover of claim 12 wherein:

the first end segment and second end segment being formed from a series of multiple laser score segments.